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Information Alert

From the National Agricultural Library



United States
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MAY 13 '94
Press Release — **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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January 1994

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NAL Adds Major Research Library on CD-ROM to Collection

Beltsville, MD – The National Agricultural Library (NAL) has added to its collection a complete international agricultural library on compact disc produced by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and The World Bank.

The 17-disc *Compact International Agricultural Research Library: Basic Retrospective Set 1962-1986 (CIARL BRS)* contains full-text documents covering six agricultural areas, including productivity, management of natural resources, improving the policy environment, strengthening agricultural research, germplasm conservation, and building linkages between developing countries and other elements of the global agricultural system.

NAL staff provided technical assistance during the early development of the library-on-discs and evaluated the database during the final trial period.

“This is a significant development for world agriculture, particularly for developing countries,” said Pam Andre, NAL Associate Director for Automation, who oversaw library participation in the project. “A major research library can now be accessed quickly and easily through personal computer. Since the library is available worldwide, the agriculture of countries throughout the world stand to benefit.”

The discs contain 1,350 titles comprising more than 190,000 pages of research materials, including books, reports, manuals, conference proceedings and field guides. In addition, there are over 50,000 graphic images, including photographs. Documents in 10 languages, contributed by 20 CGIAR and associated agricultural research centers, are included.

The World Bank is marketing the library worldwide for a price of \$1,950, plus shipping and handling.

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NAL received a complimentary copy which will be added to the NAL collection and made available to patrons for use at the library.

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The National Agricultural Library is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is the largest agricultural library in the world, containing over 2.1 million volumes and receiving 26,000 current periodical titles from throughout the world. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

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PRESS RELEASE — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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List of World Agricultural Biotech Serials Compiled by NAL

Beltsville, MD — The National Agricultural Library (NAL) has compiled and published a *World List of Serials in Agricultural Biotechnology*, containing over 3,700 entries.

According to Dr. Ray Dobert, coordinator of NAL's Biotechnology Information Center (BIC), the list was prepared to help information specialists, librarians and others engaged in keeping track of agricultural biotechnology serials published throughout the world.

"By assisting the information professional, we are indirectly aiding research and education in the growing science of agricultural biotechnology," Dobert said.

The list includes titles published in 83 different countries.

To obtain a copy of *World List of Serials in Agricultural Biotechnology*, send a self-addressed label with the request to:

Biotechnology Information Center
National Agricultural Library, 4th Floor
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351

The Biotechnology Information Center is one of 11 information centers established by NAL to gather information and provide services on issues of critical importance to the agricultural community. In addition to biotechnology, subjects covered by other information centers include: agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, food and nutrition, plant genome, rural development and health, technology transfer, water quality, and youth development.

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Aquaculture Bibliography Released by NAL

Beltsville, MD — Literature on water recirculation and aeration in aquaculture is listed in a new bibliography published by the Aquaculture Information Center (AIC) of the National Agricultural Library (NAL). Assisting AIC in compiling the bibliography were scientists with the Aquaculture Research Project of the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Entitled *Recirculation-Aeration, Bibliography for Aquaculture*, the publication lists approximately 1000 citations to literature related to “filtration, aeration, and circulation techniques in various aquaculture situations.”

According to Deborah Hanfman, AIC Coordinator, the bibliography covers most subjects related to water recirculation and aeration in aquaculture.

“We attempt to provide broad exposure to water quality, organic removal, invertebrate and algal culture systems, diseases and sterilization, and economics,” Hanfman said.

Hanfman said the bibliography resulted from research in catfish production that is going on at the Aquaculture Research Project in Tishomingo, Oklahoma. She said the bibliography “will be of value to researchers in the rapidly developing fields of closed system aquaculture and water conservation.”

To obtain a copy of *Recirculation-Aeration, Bibliography for Aquaculture*, send a self-addressed label with the request to:

Aquaculture Information Center
National Agricultural Library, Room 304
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

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January 1994

The Aquaculture Information Center is one of 11 information centers established by NAL to gather information and provide services on issues of critical importance to the agricultural community. In addition to aquaculture, subjects covered by other information centers include: agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, biotechnology, food and nutrition, plant genome, rural development and health, technology transfer, water quality, and youth development.

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Text Digitizing Report Available From NAL

Beltsville, MD – Copies of the final report on the National Agricultural Text Digitizing Project (NATDP) are available from the National Agricultural Library (NAL).

NATDP was a six-year project to test the “feasibility, cost and effectiveness of newly emerging technologies for capturing page images, providing access to their content and disseminating them for use in the agricultural community.”

According to Pam Andre, NAL Associate Director for Automation and principal investigator for the project, NATDP began with cooperation between NAL and the University of Vermont but grew to include 45 land-grant university libraries and one special library.

“Under the project, key agricultural resources were scanned and placed on CD-ROMs,” Andre said. “Copies of the discs were distributed to university libraries throughout the United States where their ease of use and effectiveness were evaluated.”

In brief, the final report, published in November 1992, concluded that optical scanning and text recognition technologies will play a key role in future agricultural information dissemination activities throughout the world. The report also recommends that NATDP become a fully operational “program,” which it has under NAL leadership. The new program has produced several CD-ROMs covering a variety of agricultural subjects including aquaculture, agronomy and food irradiation.

The final report, entitled *The National Agricultural Text Digitizing Project: Toward the Electronic Library* is available

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by sending a self-addressed label with the request to:

Ms. Pamela Q. J. Andre
National Agricultural Library, Rm. 204
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

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NAL Sponsors International Workshop on Agricultural Information

Beltsville, MD – Representatives from agricultural organizations in South American and Caribbean countries joined with personnel from the National Agricultural Library (NAL) January 24-28 in Washington, D.C. and Beltsville, Maryland, for an intensive workshop on “agricultural information transfer and networking.”

According to NAL Director Joseph H. Howard, the four-days of meetings addressed ways “to improve and strengthen the sharing of agricultural information between the United States and countries represented at the workshop.”

“In agriculture, as in all fields, information is key to progress,” Howard said. “By sharing research results and new farming techniques between countries, the world as a whole stands to benefit with increased food production and less hunger. At the workshop we discussed and came up with methods for routinely exchanging this information.”

Countries represented at the workshop were Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad/Tobago and Venezuela. Joining NAL and the foreign officials were representatives from U.S. organizations, private and public, that work with agricultural information. Canadian and British agricultural information specialists also attended.

“By the end of the workshop we had produced an outline for a comprehensive regional plan for agricultural infrastructure development,” Howard said. “We want this plan to improve national systems and enhance regional and international cooperation, communications and coordination. The plan should overcome technological isolation and develop structures that can provide cost-effective access to information.”

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Howard said that planning during the workshop focused on agricultural research and extension information transfer and networking to support "national economic development and promote capacity building in the agricultural sector."

With NAL, other sponsors of the workshop were the Inter-American Development Bank, the Associates of the National Agricultural Library, the Inter-American Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists and the U.S. Agricultural Information Network.

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bibliography on Native American Plants Available from NAL

Beltsville, MD – A list of selected literature on native American plants has been compiled by, and is available from, the Plant Genome Data and Information Center (PGDIC) of the National Agricultural Library (NAL).

According to Dr. Susan McCarthy, PGDIC coordinator, the bibliography titled "New World Plants and Their Uses: A guide to Selected Literature and Genetic Resources 1980-1993" was produced as a resource for scientists involved in plant genetics, conservation, sustainable agriculture and related sciences. It is an effort to list much of the knowledge available on disappearing species of native American plants. Some of the plants covered include: mountain huckleberry, Bromelia and Andean potatoes.

"Today, many native plant species are fast becoming extinct," Dr. McCarthy said. "Their disappearance is more than the loss of cultural and biological diversity. We lose the genes that could be used to improve modern plant varieties – even to cure disease."

The bibliography includes citations of literature on New World plants taken from AGRICOLA, NAL's bibliographic database. Citations are categorized by crop usage for food, medicine and other purposes. There is also a list of germplasm and data sources for important native American plants. The literature listed is available in the NAL collection.

To obtain a copy of the bibliography, send a self-addressed label with the request to:

Plant Genome Data and Information Center
National Agricultural Library, Fourth Floor
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351

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The Plant Genome Data and Information Center is one of 11 information centers established by NAL to gather information and provide services on issues of critical importance to the agricultural community. In addition to plant genome, subjects covered by other information centers include: agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, biotechnology, food and nutrition, rural development and health, technology transfer, water quality, and youth development.

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